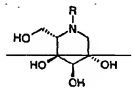
AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

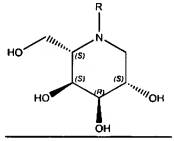
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (I) in free, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or C_{1-4}alkyl ester prodrug form:



(I)



(I)

wherein

R is $-C_{1-3}$ alkylAr^1 where Ar^1 is phenyl;

wherein phenyl is substituted by one or more substituents selected from CN, $CON(R^1)_2$, SO_nR^2, $SO_2N(R^1)_2$, $N(R^5)_2$, $N(R^1)COR^2$, $N(R^1)SO_nR^2$, C_{0-6} alkylAr^2, C_{2-6} alkenylAr^2 and C_{3-6} alkynylAr^2 wherein one or more of the $—CH_2—$ groups of the alkyl chain may be replaced with a heteroatom selected from O, S and NR^3, provided that when the heteroatom is O, at least two $—CH_2—$ groups separate it from any additional O atom in the alkyl chain; or two adjacent substituents on the Ar^1 phenyl may together form a fused 5- or 6-membered saturated or unsaturated ring wherein the ring optionally contains 1 or 2 heteroatoms selected from O, S and NR^4 and is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from, an oxo group, C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{0-3} alkylAr^4;

and the Ar^1 phenyl is optionally substituted by one or more additional substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^3 and C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^1 is H, C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted by OH, Ar^3, or C_{1-6} alkylAr^3, or the group $N(R^1)_2$ may form a 5- to 10-membered heterocyclic group optionally containing one or more additional heteroatoms selected from O, S and NR^3 and is optionally substituted by an oxo group;

R^2 is C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted by OH, Ar^3, or C_{1-6} alkylAr^3;

R^3 is H, or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^4 is H, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{0-3}alkylAr^3;

R^5 is H, C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted by OH, Ar^3, or C_{1-6} alkylAr^3, or the group $N(R^5)_2$ may form a 5- to 10-membered heterocylic group optionally containing one or more additional heteroatoms selected from O, S and NR^3 and is optionally substituted by an oxo group;

Ar^2 and Ar^3 are independently phenyl or a 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl group containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, S and NR^3, which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CN, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^3 and C_{1-6} alkyl;

Ar^3 is phenyl or pyridyl either of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CN, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^3 and C_{1-6} alkyl;

and n=0, 1 or 2.

2. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1 wherein R is C_1alkylAr^1.

3. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein Ar^1 is phenyl, wherein phenyl is substituted as defined in claim 1.

4. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein Ar^1 is phenyl, wherein phenyl is substituted by one or more substituents selected from CN, $CON(R^1)_2$, $N(R^5)_2$, and C_{0-6} alkylAr^2 wherein one or more of the $—CH_2—$ groups of the alkyl chain may be replaced with a heteroatom selected from O, S and NR^3, provided that when the heteroatom is O, at least two $—CH_2—$ groups separate it from any additional O atom in the alkyl chain, or two adjacent substituents on the Ar^1 phenyl may together form a fused 5- or 6-membered saturated or

unsaturated ring wherein the ring optionally contains 1 or 2 heteroatoms selected from O and NR^4 and is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from, an oxo group, C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{0-3} alkylAr^4, and the Ar^1 phenyl is optionally substituted by one or more additional substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^3 and C_{1-6} alkyl.

5. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein Ar^1 is phenyl, wherein phenyl is substituted by one or more substituents selected from CN, $CON(R^1)_2$, $N(R^5)_2$, and C_{0-6} alkylAr^2 wherein one or more of the $—CH_2—$ groups of the alkyl chain may be replaced with O, provided that at least two $—CH_2—$ groups separate it from any additional O atom introduced into the alkyl chain and the Ar^1 phenyl is optionally substituted by one or more additional substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^3 and C_{1-6} alkyl.

6. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein Ar^2 is phenyl which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CN, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^3 and C_{1-6} alkyl.

7. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R^1 is H or C_{1-6} alkylAr^3.

8. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R^4 is H or C_{1-6} alkyl.

9. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein Ar^3 is phenyl which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CN, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^3 and C_{1-6} alkyl.

10. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1 wherein R^5 is C_{1-6} alkyl.

11. (Currently amended) The compound selected from
Benzamide, N-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]-4-[[2S,3S,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]methyl]-;
3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-[[4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]methyl]-,(2S,3S,4R,5S);

Benzamide, N-[1-(S)-(phenyl)ethyl]-4-[[(2S,3S,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]methyl]-;

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 1-[(3-cyano-4-(dipropylamino)phenyl)methyl]-2-(hydroxymethyl)-, (2S,3S,4R,5S);

Benzamide, N-[1-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-[[2S,3S,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)- 1-piperidinyl]methyl]-;

Benzamide, N-[1-(R)-(phenyl)ethyl]-4-[[2S,3S,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]methyl]-;

Benzamide, N-[1-(R)-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-[[2S,3S,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]methyl]-;

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-[(2-phenyl-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-3(4H)-one-6-yl)methyl]-, (2S,3S,4R,5S);

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-[[4-[(4-chlorophenyl)methoxy]phenyl]methyl]-, (2S,3S,4R,5S);

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-[[4-[(4-fluorophenyl)methoxy]phenyl]methyl]-, (2S,3S,4R,5S),

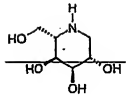
in free, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or C_{1-4}alkyl ester prodrug form.

12. (canceled)

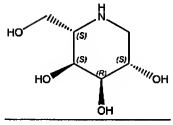
13. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients and/or diluents.

14. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, the process comprising:

a) reductive amination of an aldehyde of formula R^5CHO wherein R^5 is C_{0-2} alkylAr^1 where Ar^1 is as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula (II):



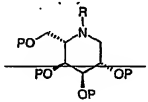
(II)



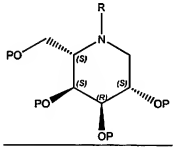
(II)

or

b) deprotection of a compound of formula (III):



(III)



(III)

wherein R is as defined in claim 1 and P, which may be the same or different, are hydroxy protecting groups.

15-30 (Cancelled).